

Hopkinton Town Meeting Minutes – March 24, 2012

Moderator Gary Richardson called the Annual Meeting of the Town of Hopkinton to order on March 24, 2012 at 9:07 a.m. in the Hopkinton High School gymnasium. Chief Steve Pecora led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Kathy Donohoe led the National Anthem. The town officials introduced were: Jim O'Brien, Chair Board of Selectmen, George Langwasser, Selectman, Tom Congoran, Selectman, Bryan Pellerin, Selectman, Denis Goddard, Selectman, and Neal Cass, Town Administrator. Sharon Somers was introduced as the town's legal counsel. The moderator introduced Sue Strickford, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Sandi Babson, the meeting scribe, and Bruce Ellsworth, Assistant Moderator, and the Supervisors of the Checklist, Carol McCann, Sandra Smart, Sharon Baker and Bonnie Cressy.

Moderator Richardson thanked those who helped with the logistics of the meeting including Dick Fortier and the custodial staff at the high school, Steve Lux for providing the sound system, and the Highway Department for setting up the room.

Selectman Langwasser recognized and thanked the volunteers for their service to the Town including Clarke Kidder, Sara McNeil, Deborah Augustine, William Chapin, Robert Houston, Glen Ohlund, John Herrick, Sandra Smart, David Lancaster, Brian Bickford, Jessica Sheinman and Martha McNeil.

Selectman Langwasser presented Sue Strickford, the retiring Town Clerk/Tax Collector with a clock in recognition of 40 years of service to the Town.

Moderator Richardson reviewed the rules of the meeting and parliamentary procedures. He explained he had received written requests for Yes/No ballot votes for Article 4 and 9 and reviewed the ballot process. He reminded voters that signed petitions are public documents under the Right-to-Know law.

Moderator Richardson read the results of the March 13, 2012 election and noted that all articles on the ballot passed.

Selectman – One for 3 Year Term

George Langwasser – 545

Karen Irwin - 412

Merle Dustin - 236

Town Clerk/Tax Collector – One for 1 year to fill an unexpired term

Chuck Gangel – 493

Virginia Haines - 272

Kathy Donohoe - 230

Maria Doval - 137

Wendy Hayes - 85

Sherri Seabury - 25

Laurie Shepard - 17

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Moderator – One for 2 Year Term

Gary B. Richardson - 1105

Budget Committee – One for 2 Years to fill an unexpired term

Terry Quinn – 1024

Budget Committee – One for 3 Year Term

Lance Whitehead - 954

Library Trustees – Two for 3 Year Term each

Peter Gagnon - 887

Barry Needleman - 792

Cemetery Trustee – One for 3 Year Term

Donald K. Lane - 1058

Supervisor of the Checklist - One for 6 Year Term

Jean Lightfoot - 1040

Trustee of Trust Funds – One for 3 Year Term

Christine B. Hoyt - 1044

Article 2: To see what action the Town will take with respect to the following proposed amendments to the Hopkinton Zoning Ordinance by ballot vote upon the following questions:

1. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment 1 as proposed by the Planning Board (7-0) for the Town of Hopkinton Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Readopt Section XIII **Growth Management and Innovative Land Use Control.** The re-adoption will include updated statistical data as reported in subsection 13.3 **Findings** and a change in the expiration date reflected in subsection 13.9 **Sunset.**

Yes - 915 No - 176

2. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment 2 as proposed by the Planning Board (7-0) for the Town of Hopkinton Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Revised subsection 2.1.A.4, **Agriculture, Farm, Farming,** definition so that it is consistent with NH RSA 21:34-a. The amendment includes recognition of agri-tourism and farmers' markets.

Yes - 1052 No - 81

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3. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment 3 as proposed by the Planning Board (7-0) for the Town of Hopkinton Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Revise Section XI, **Local Regulation of Excavation** so that it is consistent with NH RSA 155-E. This amendment addresses definitions, hearings, minimum and express operational standards, minimum and express reclamation standards, incremental reclamation, and exceptions.

Yes - 923 No – 177

Article 3: The moderator recognized Chairman O'Brien for the purpose of moving Article 3, seconded by Selectman Langwasser, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's recommended amount of \$ 5,574,223 for general municipal operations. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed.
(*Majority vote required*).

General Government Functions

Executive	\$ 229,987
IT Services	24,660
Election, Registrations, Vital Stats. & Tax Coll.	264,149
Financial Administration	118,662
Assessing	57,700
Legal	25,000
Personnel Administration	22,500
Planning & Zoning Departments	116,439
Cemeteries	36,524
Insurance	135,408
Economic Development Committee	2,000
TOTAL	\$ 1,033,029

Budget Committee and Selectmen

Public Safety Operations

Police Department	\$ 715,516
Animal Control	7,255
Ambulance	589,418
Fire Department	253,691
Rescue Squad	8,775
Emergency Management	1
TOTAL	\$ 1,574,656

Budget Committee and Selectmen

Public Works Operations

Highway Administration	\$ 557,615
Highways & Streets	610,000
Buildings & Grounds	234,134
Street Lighting	2,160
Transfer Station Operations	547,199
Landfill Maintenance & Monitoring	47,417
Sewer Department	96,262
TOTAL	\$ 2,094,787

Budget Committee and Selectmen

Health & Welfare

Community Action Program (CAP)	\$ 5,552
Welfare Administration	27,253

Budget Committee and Selectmen

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Welfare Vendors	<u>70,000</u>
TOTAL	\$ 102,805
<u>Culture and Recreation</u>	<u>Budget Committee and Selectmen</u>
Recreation Department	\$ 124,748
Patriotic Purposes	3,250
Hopkinton Library	<u>\$ 287,167</u>
TOTAL	\$ 415,165
<u>Conservation</u>	<u>Budget Committee and Selectmen</u>
Conservation Commission	<u>\$ 1</u>
TOTAL	\$ 1
<u>Long-term Debt & TAN Interest</u>	<u>Budget Committee and Selectmen</u>
Principal – Bonds and Notes	\$ 257,267
Interest – Bonds and Notes	94,513
Interest – TAN	<u>2,000</u>
TOTAL	\$ 353,780

GRAND TOTAL: \$ 5,574,223

Chairman O'Brien presented a general overview of the 2012 budget and warrant articles. He stated the budget was a coordinated effort between the Board of Selectmen, the Town Department Heads and the Budget Committee. The budget was created acknowledging the challenging economic times and the importance of maintaining a manageable impact on the municipal budget. The 2012 proposed tax rate would be \$5.27 per thousand, based on the proposed budget of \$5,574,223, approximately a 4% increase. He explained the establishment of a merit pool of 3% for town employees, and indicated the employee health insurance would change to a HMO program effective July 1, 2012. He explained the Town portion of the Operations Budget represents an increase of about 1%. The increase is due to fuel costs, employee wages and retirement system benefits, computer hardware replacements and welfare vendors (fuel costs, rents, cost of living). The total increase in operations was about \$164,000, and after savings from paying off some debt, and hard work in department budgets, the actual operations increase is \$52,458.

Chairman O'Brien also addressed the warrant articles to be discussed. He indicated the two petitioned warrant articles were not included in the tax rate calculations. Overall total revenues were anticipated to decrease about 1%. He explained the State reimbursements for the West Hopkinton land used for flood plain control had been substantially decreased, resulting in a loss of revenue. He also mentioned the fund balance needed to be maintained at 5%. He indicated the overall estimated amount to be raised by taxes would be \$3,420,913, resulting in a tax rate change of \$0.21, or 4.15%.

The moderator opened the floor to discussion of Article 3.

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Chris Lawless stated if the surplus balance is \$1,155,000 and the 5% is \$993,000, and this year's increase is \$150,000, he would like to make a Motion to Amend to have the budget decreased by \$150,000, and recommend it be taken out of surplus so the effective tax increase is zero. David Lancaster seconded the motion.

The moderator recognized the Town Administrator, Neal Cass who thought Mr. Lawless's intent was not to cut the budget, but to use more from the fund balance. He said the motion would cut the budget by \$150,000, but it was up to the Board how much was used from the fund balance.

Chris Lawless asked if there was a way to compel the Board to use the \$150,000 from surplus rather than raise taxes.

Selectman Langwasser indicated if that was the intent of the voting body, with a motion, the board could be direct to take the money out of the surplus and apply it as revenue.

Discussion continued on the appropriate wording of the Motion to Amend to indicate the intent was not to cut services or the budget, but to use a bit of savings to reduce taxes.

Mr. Lawless retracted his amendment, and Mr. Lancaster retracted his second.

Selectman Congoran suggested passing over Article 3 temporarily to allow the Board to confer with the Town Counsel to ensure that the proper wording of Mr. Lawless's motion reflects the intent.

Following the discussion and ballot voting of Article 4, discussion continued on Article 3.

Chris Lawless offered an amendment to Article 3 to add "provided that an additional \$150,000 of that amount be appropriated from the fund balance". The Motion to Amend was seconded by Louise Carr.

Moderator Richardson recognized Town Administrator, Neal Cass who indicated the simplest language to clarify that the intent of the amendment was to state that a total of \$415,000 be appropriated from the fund balance.

Mr. Lawless modified his Motion to Amend to read ". . . provided that \$415,000 be appropriated from the fund balance". Louise Carr seconded.

The moderator called for a vote on the Motion to Amend Article 3, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's recommended amount of \$ 5,574,223 for general municipal operations, "providing that \$415,000 be added from the fund balance".

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The moderator called for a voice vote and declared the Motion to Amend passed.

The moderator called for a voice vote and declared Article 3 adopted.

Article 4: The moderator recognized Don Lane for the purpose of moving Article 4, seconded by Louise Carr, to see if the Town will vote to support restoring the position of Human Services Director to full-time status, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$24,436.00 which represents the balance of wages and benefits for 8 month of a full-time director.

By Petition (Majority Vote Required).

Don Lane spoke in support of the article and discussed the variety of situations the Human Services Director is faced with as well as the importance of the interaction with all aspects of the community and the available service providers. He questioned the Board's basis for the reduction of the position.

Renee Carey spoke in support of the article saying given the significant economic recession, the Town needs to recognize and fulfill its obligation to take care of the community.

Selectman Congoran provided an overview of the decision to reduce the position based on what the State mandates require and what the job requires. He recognized the Board has a responsibility to spend money wisely. He noted with the building of the Slusser Center, there had been a gradual expansion in the services provided through the role of the Human Services Director, different from the services mandated by the State.

Michael Foley spoke in favor of the amendment and asked for clarification as to whether the discussion was about a single person, or a concept of a full time position. He asked whether in the future, two part-time positions might be considered to fulfill the needs of the full time position.

Selectman Congoran replied if the Article passes, the Board would consider all options.

Arnold Coda asked if it passed, would the decision be non-binding per a recent newspaper article.

Selectman Congoran asked the moderator's permission to have Sharon Somers, Town Counsel address the question. Attorney Somers indicated the question is to see if there is support to reinstate the full time position. She indicated the Board has broad hiring decision powers. The vote would provide a message of support, or lack of, for restoring the position to full time, and the Board would take the decision under advisement and act accordingly.

Arnold Coda inquired about the current work load of position and how many hours were required per week.

Selectman Congoran replied the current position was 20 hours per week.

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The moderator recognized Neal Cass, the Town Administrator who said 20 hours per week had met the required welfare needs, but not necessarily senior service needs such as Medicare assistance. Welfare needs have been met since December, but he indicated the number of clients can vary depending on time of year.

Marion Paxton requested future discussion be held during public session to allow input regarding whether it is two part-time or one full time position. She commented there is a difference between meeting the letter of the law by providing services to the poor, and providing resources, support and information to many others in the broader community.

Lucielle Gaskill spoke in support of the amendment. She indicated the Human Services Director assists with many different tasks at Park Ave Apartments, much of which is confidential and may not be recorded.

Gordon Crouch, the minister at First Congregational Church, spoke in support. He indicated all of the churches rely heavily on the Human Service Director as a first referral source given the extensive knowledge of available resources and systems.

Vernon Miller stated he did not have a position, but questioned whether the crux of the issue is the Human Services Director's current job description.

Lance Claggett, a minister in town indicated the clergy values the Human Service Director's assistance. He stated the money savings for both the churches and the town given the skill and qualification level of the current employee in the position.

Lance Claggett made a Motion to Amend Article 4 to read, "to see if the Town will vote to direct the Board to restore the full time position of the Human Services Director", and to strike the words "support restoring". Merle Duston seconded the Motion to Amend.

The Moderator called for voice vote, and the Motion to Amend was approved.

Louise Carr pointed out the number of clients served was taken out of context. She did not feel senior assistance was out of the scope of the Human Services Director who is a qualified person bound to confidentiality. She indicated the Director refers those in need to other sources of assistance, saving the Town money.

Moderator Richardson stated the vote would be a paper Yes/No ballot.

He explained the vote was on the amended Article to direct the Board of Selectmen to restore the full time Human Resources Director position.

The results of the ballot vote for Article 4 were 220 votes in the affirmative and 93 votes in the negative.

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The moderator declared Article 4 adopted.

There were 340 voters registered at the time of the vote.

Article 5: The moderator recognized Selectman Pellerin for the purpose of moving Article 5, seconded by Selectman Langwasser, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three hundred sixty-two thousand (\$ 362,000) to be placed in previously established Capital Reserve Funds. Funds to be placed in the Capital Reserve Funds as follows:

<u>Capital Reserve Accounts</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Fire Vehicles and Equipment	\$ 105,000
Public Works Vehicles and Equipment	125,000
Replacement & Equipping of Ambulance	50,000
Police Radio Replacement	7,000
Transfer Station Equipment & Facilities	25,000
Police Cruiser and Accessories Equipment	25,000
Library Replacement Building Systems	15,000
Town Hall Renovations	10,000
TOTAL	\$ 362,000

(Majority Vote Required).

There was no debate on the article.

The moderator called for a voice vote and declared Article 5 adopted.

Article 6: The moderator recognized Selectman Langwasser for the purpose of moving Article 6, seconded by Selectman O'Brien, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twelve thousand dollars (\$ 12,000) to be placed in previously established Expendable General Trust Funds as follows:

<u>Expendable General Trust Funds</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Building Maintenance	\$ 20,000
Hopkinton Library Technology	5,000
Library Building/Grounds	5,000
TOTAL	\$ 30,000

(Majority Vote Required).

The moderator explained there was a misprint in Article 6 and Selectman Langwasser would offer a corrective amendment.

Selectman Langwasser made a Motion to Article 6 to read “to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000)” to correct misprint in the narrative part of Article 6, seconded by Selectman O’Brien.

The moderator called for a voice vote on the Motion to correct the \$12,000 misprint, and declared the Motion to Amend passed.

The moderator called for a voice vote and declared Article 6 adopted.

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Article 7: The moderator recognized Selectman Goddard for the purpose of moving Article 7 , seconded by Selectman Congoran, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ninety-five thousand dollars (\$ 95,000) for the purpose of offsetting the cost of collection and disposal of residential solid waste and such other direct costs as budgeted annually and to authorize the withdrawal of this sum from the Pay by Bag Fund (Special Revenue Fund) established for this purpose at the 2010 Town Meeting to fund this appropriation. No funds to be raised by taxation.

(Majority Vote Required).

There was no debate on Article 7.

The moderator called for a voice vote and declared Article 7 adopted.

Article 8: The moderator recognized Selectman Langwasser for the purpose of moving Article 8, seconded by Selectman Pellerin, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) for conceptual architecture and engineering for a new fire station with plans to be presented at the 2013 Town Meeting.

(Majority Vote Required).

The moderator opened the floor to debate.

Dick Schoch asked who was going to inhabit a new building, and indicated the Rescue Squad was a private entity and was not interested.

Selectman Langwasser replied, at the present time, it would be the Fire and Ambulance.

Selectman Congoran spoke against the Article. He stated he was absent from the meeting when the vote was taken, but he would have voted against it saying it was another example of the State pushing funding to the Town level.

Dick Drescher asked if the people in the fire department could tell us what needs to be done there rather than spend \$15,000 for the study.

Rob Dapresse, a member of the committee provided an overview of the findings. He stated there were 1,200 calls last year, more medical in nature and the current station has inadequate storage for medical and firefighting equipment. Due to the larger amount and size of the equipment, there was no room to move around the station. They looked at other options to improve the current building, viewed as short term fixes, such as adding a 2nd floor. He stated the needs over next 20-30 years are predictable. They looked at properties for a location on land the town owns. The \$15,000 for a schematic design is needed to show what a new station would look like in order to know exactly what the costs would entail.

Selectman O'Brien said despite attempts, grants for federal dollars have not worked out. The committee looked at the existing structure, and had ongoing dialogues. He thanked the committee for being thorough. He indicated the schematic would be the beginning of a discussion.

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Arnold Coda spoke against the article. He stated the Contoocook Fire Station is in a poor location. He asked if the committee had done any thinking outside of the box to determine the best structure. He questioned the consolidation of the existing two fire stations and the police station.

Ian Tewksbury asked if a combined safety center had been considered. He expressed support of the \$15,000 to do the conceptual study to determine the cost to the Town.

Rob Dapresse indicated the idea of a combined safety center was considered, but the savings was not as substantial as might be expected. He indicated the administrative spaces would need to be separate, and building a larger structure to accommodate the Police was not cost effective.

Lloyd Holmes spoke against the article and asked about the plans for the Hopkinton Station.

Fire Chief Rick Schaefer spoke, indicating he had not been on the committee on purpose, but indicated a new building would need service of town sewer and water. He stated when the Police Station was built, a safety complex was considered, but it was too expensive. He addressed the question of the Hopkinton Station and indicated it was very important. The proximity of the Hopkinton station and the hydrants directly impacts insurance rates for homeowners, and allows better response time to Hopkinton and Interstate 89. He said the Contoocook Fire Station was built in 1974, and other than replacement windows in the one training/meeting room, garage doors, a roof replacement, nothing else has been done to the building. Space is needed for equipment, medications lock up, and medical records retention. There had been only minimal changes in 38 years, but the Fire and Ambulance services have changed to meet the needs of the Town.

Louise Carr asked Chief Pecora if the Police Department space is adequate.

The Moderator yielded to Chief Pecora who stated the building was built 12 years ago with the intention to have adequate space to be able to move forward for the next 20-30 years.

Dick Schoch inquired whether the approval of the \$15,000 would include looking at the addition of a 2nd floor to the Contoocook Station.

Chief Schaefer indicated it had been looked at in the past, once in 2004, at the cost of \$1.1 million, and a second time in 2007 at the cost of \$2.5 million. He stated the current building is too close to the river to meet code.

The Moderator called for a voice vote, but determined it was too close to call. After a second voice vote, again too close to call, he asked for a standing vote.

The final results of the standing vote were 201 votes in favor, and 88 votes opposed.

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The moderator declared Article 8 adopted.

Article 9: The moderator recognized Ken Wilkens for the purpose of moving Article 9, seconded by Lloyd Holmes, to see if the Town will vote to rescind Article 19 as amended that was approved at the March 2010 Hopkinton Town Meeting. Passage of this new 2012 Warrant Article will end the so called “Pay-by-Bag” trash disposal program in its entirety. Cancellation of “Pay-by-Bag” will become effective on April 30, 2012. ***By Petition (Majority Vote Required).***

The moderator declared the floor open for debate.

David Lancaster asked about the impact on the operating budget to compensate for the lost revenue from the bag sales.

Selectman Goddard replied the amount would be same as Article 7.

Luciele Gaskill spoke in favor of recycling, but stated the \$1.25 per green bag is too costly. She expressed concern on the impact of local trash collection businesses.

Frank Davis spoke in support of the article and said he supported recycling, but without the high cost of the bags.

Marion Paxton spoke in support of the article. She said the program was originally designed to offset cost to operating transfer station, not as a revenue source. She commented the manufacturers who provide the bags were making the profits.

Cindy White spoke in support of the article. She expressed concern that this was a decisive issue to again be decided by the small number of people attending the meeting. She stated she strongly supports recycling, but pay-per-bag is not good for the town. She stated the town needs to expand the types of plastics accepted or provide curbside recycling.

Elizabeth Sanders said the key is trying to change behavior, and there is a need to provide an incentive to recycle. Purchasing of bags is the incentive. She said the longer term cost of tipping fees had not been discussed. Overall, the amount of trash needs to be reduced.

Pat Sangillo called the question.

The Moderator said he wanted to give the people in line a chance to speak.

Ian Tewsbury inquired about the \$95,000 in Article 7, and the impact of the increase in taxes.

Selectman Goddard replied this year is capped, the impact would be going forward next year.

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Fred Fairneny spoke in support of rescinding the pay-by-bag, saying it is costly and the program has not met its goals.

Mary Leadbeater, a member of recycling committee, stated the local trash haulers could not afford the increasing tipping fees, and had supported the pay-by-bag program.

Selectman Goddard said the decisions were based on measurable objective data, and the program has succeeded. The rate of recycling is increasing, and taxes have decreased as a result, and there is a fair and equitable system in place.

Jayne Schoch asked if the schools recycle.

David Luneau indicated the schools do recycle, using single stream disposal.

The moderator indicated the vote on Article 9 would be a paper Yes/No ballot.

After the ballot results were tallied, there were 102 votes in the affirmative, and 198 votes opposed.

The moderator declared Article 9 failed.

At the time of the ballot vote, there were 365 registered voters.

Article 10: The moderator recognized Selectman Pellerin, seconded by Selectman Langwasser, to see if the Town will vote to continue the current price of the Pay-by-Bag bags as follows:

13 gallon bags	\$ 0.75
33 gallon bags	\$ 1.25

(Majority Vote Required).

There was no debate on Article 10.

The moderator called for a voice vote and declared Article 10 adopted.

Louise Carr made a motion to skip over Articles 11 and 12 and take up Article 13 first, seconded by Ann Wayland.

Selectman O'Brien requested keeping the articles in order because of the core discussion about the monetary article and the discussion would be more smoothly. He indicated it would make the voting more transparent.

The moderator called for a voice vote on Louise Carr's motion and declared it failed.

Article 11: The moderator recognized Selectman O'Brien, seconded by Selectman Pellerin, to see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Community Center Capital Reserve Fund created in

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1999. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, to be transferred to the Town's general fund.

(Majority Vote Required).

Selectman O'Brien spoke about the original purpose of the funds for building a community center. The funding was originally started in 1999 and the annual appropriations ended in 2006. The fund balance now totals \$280,000, but is earning minimal interest. The funds were designated for a specific purpose without a plan for its use. The intent of the article is to put the funds into the Town's general fund.

Selectman Langwasser spoke against the article. He supported keeping the money in the fund until a future plan is finalized.

Winnifred Langtry spoke against the article. She questioned the status of the Houston Barn renovations that were started prior to the building of the Slusser Center.

Patrice Gerseny commented that the Town had voted not to build a community center years ago and the fund should be looked at for other uses.

Marion Paxton asked about the debt interest expense that would be recovered if money is used to pay down the debt.

Louise Carr said the money had been designated for a community center and if it is determined there is not a need for it, she suggested the town have another look at the use of the money for other projects.

Byron Carr stated the need to take the time to allow town-wide input for the use of the funds to determine the wisest use of the money.

The moderator called for a voice vote on Article 11, and declared it defeated.

Scott Clay made Motion to Reconsider Article 9.

The moderator called for a voice vote, and declared Article 9 could not be reconsidered.

Ken Wilkens made a Motion to Reconsider Article 4.

The moderator called for a voice vote, and declared Article 4 could not be reconsidered.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three hundred thousand dollars (\$ 300,000) to pay off existing debt. *By Petition (Majority Vote Required).*

Ian Tewksbury made a motion to table Article 12 until the end of the meeting, seconded by Selectman O'Brien. Mr. Tewksbury stated because Article 11 was defeated, he wanted to table Article 12.

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The moderator called for a voice vote and declared the motion failed.

The moderator called for a voice vote on Article 12, and declared it defeated.

Article 13: The moderator recognized Selectman O'Brien for the purpose of moving Article 13, seconded by Selectman Goddard, to see if the Town will vote to instruct the Board of Selectmen to appoint a committee to review all possible options for a community center or community center space and report back to the Board of Selectmen by September 1, 2012 with the intent of the Board of Selectmen recommending action to the 2013 Town Meeting.
(Majority Vote Required).

Natalie Duval made a Motion to Amend Article 13 to add "or other construction projects designed to build community". She explained the intent of the motion is to allow the study committee to evaluate other construction project for the community, such as safety around Fountain Square.

Selectman O'Brien expressed concerns about the broad language.

The moderator called for a voice vote on the Motion to Amend Article 13 and declared it defeated.

Louise Carr encouraged the expansion of the committee's charge to look at other appropriate uses for town projects and to make recommendations to the Board.

Selectman O'Brien said the specific purpose of the fund was for a community center and expanding it to other projects would dilute what the committee would be looking at.

The moderator called for a voice vote on Article 13 and declared it adopted.

Article 14: The moderator recognized Selectman Congoran for the purpose of moving Article 14, seconded by Selectman Goddard, to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell a lot located on Tamarack Road, identified on the Town Tax records as Map 211, Lot 014 and which consists of approximately 1.18 acres; further, that the Selectmen shall be authorized to sell such lot upon such terms and conditions which they deem to be in the best interest of the Town.
(Majority Vote Required).

There was no debate.

The moderator called for a voice vote and declared Article 14 adopted.

Article 15: The moderator recognized Selectman Langwasser for the purpose of moving Article 15, seconded by Selectman Pellerin, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand five hundred twenty-two dollars (\$ 1,522) for the purpose of offsetting operational and maintenance costs of the Slusser Senior Center and to authorize the withdrawal

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of this sum from the Senior Center Rental Fund (Revenue Fund) established for this purpose at the 2009 Town Meeting to fund this appropriation. No funds to be raised by taxation.
(*Majority Vote Required*).

There was no debate.

The moderator called for a voice vote and declared Article 15 adopted.

Article 16: To hear the reports of agents, officers and committees, heretofore chosen, to pass any vote relating thereto and to transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

David Lancaster requested a record of the voter statistics for the meeting.

Registered voters in Town – 4,269

Registered Voters in Attendance -371

Turn out Percentage: 8%

Arnold Coda commented on the improved auditors reports in the Town Report and asked if the Board had given consideration to changing the Town's fiscal year to end in June in order to provide meaningful financials.

Chairman O'Brien replied the Board had begun a discussion of a process to look at the fiscal year change.

At 12:50 p.m., Chairman O'Brien made a Motion to Adjourn the meeting, seconded by Arnold Coda.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue B. Strickford
Town Clerk/Tax Collector